

INTRODUCTION

The basic stitch used in *aari* work is chain stitch. It is the foundation of all the other stitches of *aari* embroidery. The steps of doing chain stitch are discussed in this unit in detail. *Aari* work can be done with any variety of threads like silk, cotton, *zari*, wool, etc. But to begin with, *zari* is preferable, to avoid frequent breakage of thread. Chain stitch is worked from the bottom of the fabric towards the front side or top side of the fabric attached on *adda*. The thick chain (*madhkan*), *paani* and butt filling, *fansa* chain, open chain, etc., are all chain variations.

Bead and sequin work is quite simple. While doing chain stitch itself, bead or sequin is dropped in each loop of the chain to generate a line or series of beads or sequins. Beads and sequins are available in variety of shapes and sizes. One can select them as per usage in the design. For beadwork, longer tip needles are used to collect multiple beads together in it. Similarly, sequins of different diameters are available which can be used as per need.

SESSION 1: BASIC AARI WORK

(a) Chain stitch

Mainly, the basic stitch used in *adda* work is chain stitch. The following are the steps of making a chain loop with an *aari* needle:

Step 1: Insert the *aari* through the fabric to the backside of the fabric attached on the *adda* (frame) mostly with the right hand, and in the mean time the thread is seized in the left hand under the fabric.

Step 2: Catch the thread in the hook.

Step 3: Bring it all the way through to the front, without letting go the thread in your left hand.

Step 4: Rotate the hook to the opposite side.

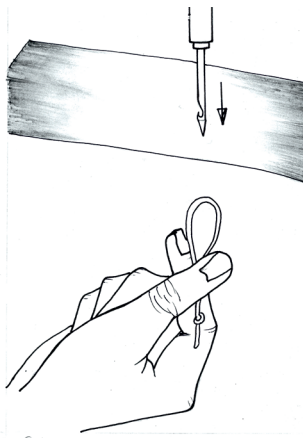


Fig. 3.1(a) Chain stitch formation (step-1)

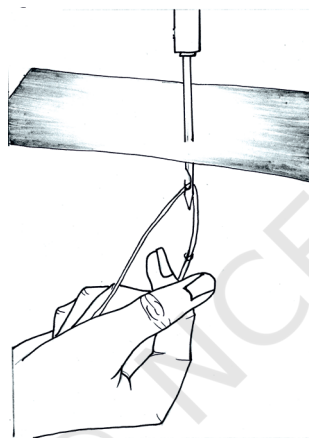


Fig. 3.1(b) Chain stitch formation (step-2)

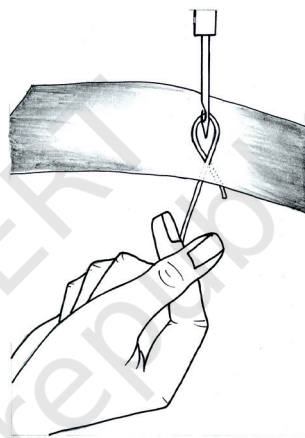


Fig. 3.1(c) Chain stitch formation (step-3)

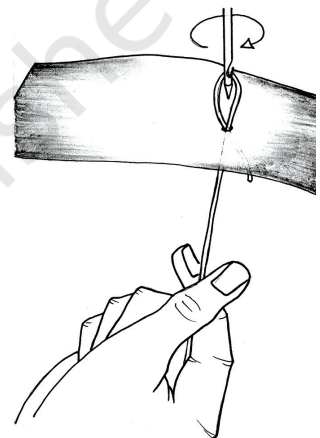


Fig. 3.1(d) Chain stitch formation (step-4)

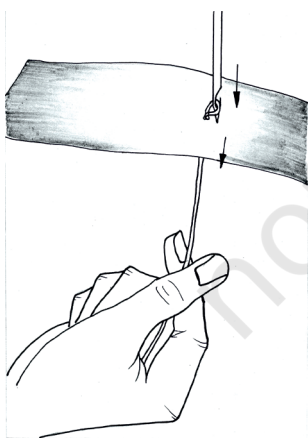


Fig. 3.1(e) Chain stitch formation (step-5)

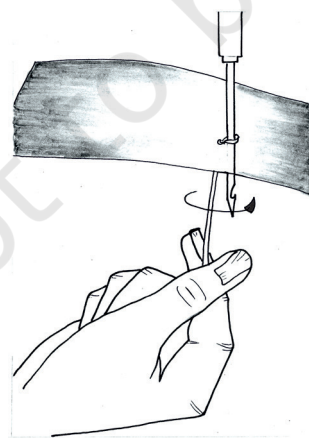


Fig. 3.1(f) Chain stitch formation (step-6)

Step 5: Insert the needle looped tip a short distance ahead and on the design line. Keep your stitch the same size.

Step 6: Place the thread around the hook of the needle.

Step 7: Now, make a complete turn around the hook.

Step 8: Turn the hook opposite clockwise.

Step 9: Bring the hook up above on the fabric.

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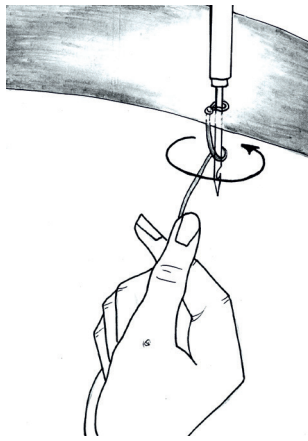


Fig. 3.1(g) Chain stitch formation (step-7)

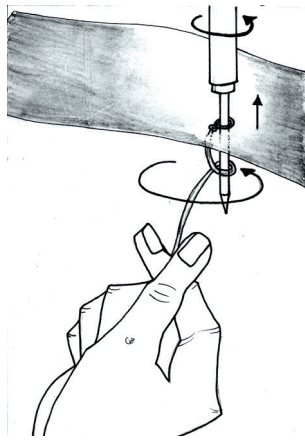


Fig. 3.1(h) Chain stitch formation (step-8)

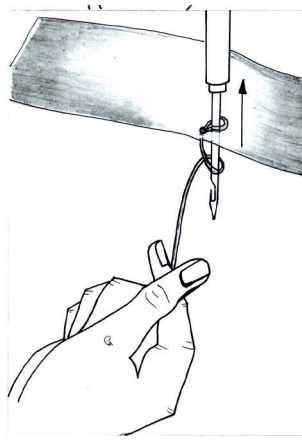


Fig. 3.1(i) Chain stitch formation (step-9)

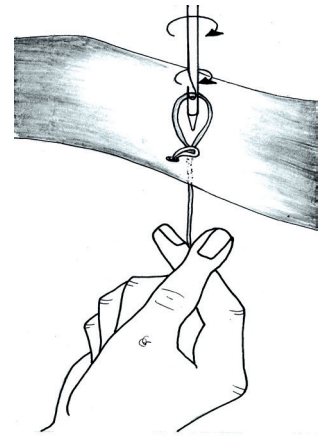


Fig. 3.1(j) Chain stitch formation (step-10)

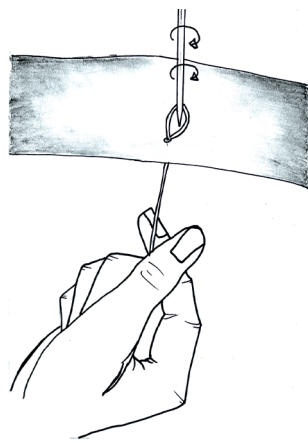


Fig. 3.1(k) Chain stitch formation (step-11)

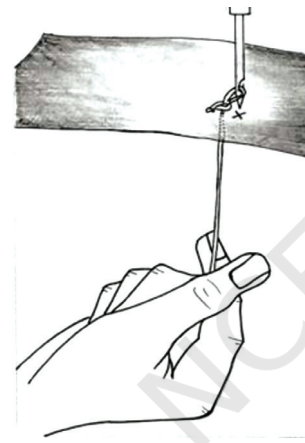


Fig. 3.1(l) Chain stitch formation (step-12)

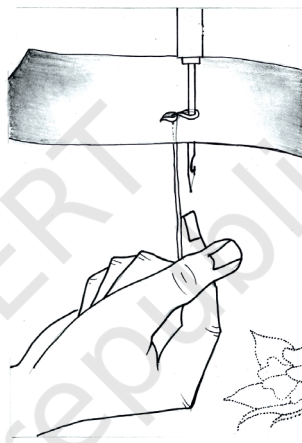


Fig. 3.1(m) Chain stitch formation (step-13)

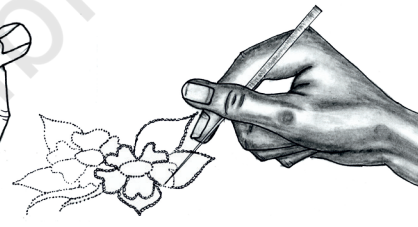


Fig. 3.1(n) Chain stitch final look

Step 10: Remember to keep the thread slightly straight.

Step 11: Rotate the hook opposite, again clockwise.

Step 12: Insert the hook again a small distance ahead.

Step 13: Turn over again a full loop around the *aari* tip and start again from step 7.

(b) Padded chain stitch (load filling stitch)

To create a padded chain stitch, we need piping thread, fabric glue and *aari*. The basic stitch used to make padded stitch is the chain stitch.

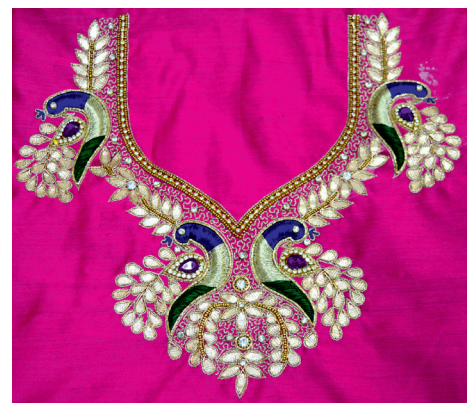


Fig. 3.2 Padded chain stitch—final look

As per the selected design, piping thread is cut and fabric glue is applied to it. Paste this thread on the desired area. Now, to cover the piping thread, simple stitches or elongated chain stitches are made over the piping thread. Outline and finish using chain stitch in *zari* thread giving it a padded effect.



Fig. 3.3 Sequin work

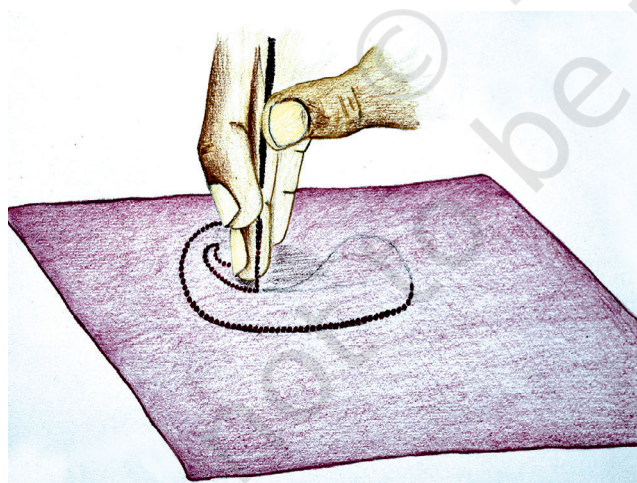


Fig. 3.4 Beadwork

(c) Sequin work

Sequins are disk-shaped material used for ornamentation purpose and are usually made from plastic. They are available in different colours and shapes. Mainly, sequins have a hole in the centre. Paillettes are sequin like and are commonly very large and flat. Sequins can be attached while making loops of the chain stitch. Sequins are put on the fabric attached to *adda* and while taking the loop for chain, it is also taken in the loop. Sequins may be sewed flat to the fabric, using *aari* or embroidery needle so that they do not shift, and are less likely to drop or they may be sewed at only one point, so that they hang, swing and move very easily, to grab more light. Some sequins are made with multiple facets, to increase their reflective ability.

(d) Beadwork

It is an attractive art of embroidering small beads into a range of aesthetically pleasant patterns. In this type of work, very small and uniform coloured beads are attached to delicate garments or other fabrics. Each bead is just a part of a large design, and the overall design creates the impact, rather than a single bead. The artistry and the skill depend on the design, construction and implementation of the article.

Bead embroidery of different areas can be recognised easily by the design, colour and size of the beads, and the methods of its creation. This is done by *aari* or fine hook needle, by adding beads in a chain stitch thread while working on the fabric. In *aari* work, the beads are stitched to the upper right side of the fabric where the loops of the chain stitch are made. The thread is tied through each bead as the stitches are created.

Once the *aari* embroidery is completed, it is carefully checked for errors and accidental defects or problems in order to achieve zero defect final products. All the steps of manufacturing should be strictly supervised by experienced quality control professionals, who ensure perfect execution of the task. One must make sure that the raw material and end products fulfill the quality standards and safety norms.

Practical Exercises

Activity 1

Prepare a sample of chain stitch and beadwork.

Materials Required

1. A floral design of size 5" × 5" on tracing paper
2. Fabric sample
3. Beads/*poth* of any colour
4. *Aari* for beadwork
5. Cotton thread/*zari* matching the colour of beads
6. Sheet of A3 size
7. *Adda* or frame

Procedure

1. Transfer the floral design on the fabric sample using any tracing method.
2. Outline the design line using chain stitch and beadwork (follow the instructions of doing the chain stitch as mentioned in the session).
3. Finish the edges of the sample and attach it on the sheet.

Activity 2

Prepare a sample of sequin work.

Materials Required

1. An abstract design of size 5" × 5" on the tracing paper
2. Fabric sample



NOTES

3. Sequin of multiple colours, shapes and sizes
4. *Aari* for sequin work
5. Cotton thread or *zari*
6. Sheet of A3 size
7. *Adda* or frame

Procedure

1. Transfer the abstract design on the fabric sample using any tracing method.
2. Outline and fill the design using chain stitch and sequin of multiple colours (follow the instructions of doing the chain stitch as mentioned in the session).
3. Finish the edges of the sample and attach it on the sheet.

Check Your Progress

A. Fill in the blanks

1. The basic stitch used in *aari* work is _____ stitch.
2. _____ are disk-shaped material used for decorative purposes.
3. In *aari* work, the beads are attached to the _____ side of the fabric where the chain stitch is formed.

B. Questions

1. Explain the padded chain stitch.
2. Explain beadwork and sequin work.
3. Explain with figures, the steps of making a chain stitch.

